

Email from **Nicola Blackwood MP**

7 February 2012

Dear Mr Dexter,

Many thanks for writing to me about the Equal Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, which had its second reading and first vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday 5 February. In the event, I abstained on both the vote on the Programme Motion and on the Bill itself.

First, I would like to apologise for the delay in my reply. I have received hundreds of letters and emails on this subject from my constituents in recent months, and I felt that it was important for me to not only consider them carefully but also to read through the detail of the Bill itself (which was published on 25th January) before responding.

Kindest regards,
Nicola

[Ms Blackwood's email included a thorough, clear and thoughtful review of her own developing ideas on the issue, which I reproduce in the section on MP statements, above.]